



ELDERLY ABUSE PREVENTION

How to Report a Tip



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Text TIP610 plus your tip to
CRIMES (274637)



Use our **Mobile App**

Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://www.crime-stoppers.org)

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.



Elder abuse is any abuse and neglect of persons age 60 and older by a caregiver or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust.



Forms of abuse

Physical Abuse: When enough force is used to cause unnecessary pain or injury, even if the reason is to help the older person.

Examples of this behavior are:

- Slapping and/or Shoving
- Assaulted or threatened with a weapon
- Inappropriately restrained
- Inappropriate use of medications

Signs are:

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones
- Unexplained injuries
- Physical pain and/or soreness
- Injury that has not been cared for properly

Emotional Abuse: Any type of coercive or threatening behavior that sets up an imbalance of power.

Examples of this behavior are:

- Humiliation
- Controlling behavior
- Social isolation
- Name calling
- Silent treatment
- Trivializing needs

Signs are:

- being emotionally upset or agitated
- being extremely withdrawn and non-communicative or non-responsive
- unusual behavior usually attributed to dementia such as sucking, biting, rocking, etc.

Sexual Abuse: Any unwanted sexualized behavior including acts the elder is unable to understand or to communicate.

Examples of this behavior are:

- Unwanted touching
- All types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, etc.

Signs are:

- Vaginal infections or STD's
- Unexplained vaginal bleeding
- Inappropriate, unusual, or aggressive sexual behavior

Financial Abuse: Unauthorized or improper use of the resources of an elder for monetary or personal benefit, profit, or gain.

Examples of this behavior are:

- Misuse of funds
- Embezzlement
- Taking money under false pretenses
- Denying someone of their funds
- Forced property transfers
- Forgery and/or fraud

Signs are:

- Signatures on checks do not match the elder's signature
- Unusual ATM activity and/or large withdraws from bank accounts
- Missing valuables
- Adding additional names on bank signature card
- Unpaid bills, delinquent utility notices

Failing to meet physical, social or emotional needs of someone you are responsible for caring including failing to keep him or her safe from harm.

Examples of this behavior are:

- Withholding appropriate attention
- Not providing adequate nutrition
- Prevents elder from speaking to or seeing visitors

Signs are:

- Indifferent towards elder
- Talks of elder as a burden
- Bedsores
- Lack of medical aids such as glasses, walkers, hearing aids, medications
- Lack of affection towards elder
- Lack of basic hygiene



Protecting Yourself from Elder Abuse:

- Make sure your financial and legal affairs are in order.
- Enlist professional help to assist with legal affairs, with the assistance of a trusted friend or relative if necessary.
- Open your own mail.
- Use direct deposit for checks.
- Keep in touch with family and friends and avoid becoming isolated.
- If you are unhappy with the care you're receiving, whether it's in your own home or in a care facility, speak up. Tell someone you trust and ask that person to report the abuse, neglect, or substandard care to an elder abuse helpline or long-term care ombudsman, or make the call yourself.



Tips for Caregivers:

- If you find yourself becoming angry, call family, a friend, or a neighbor for help.
- Take a break, even if it's stepping outside for fresh air.
- Practice stress management, we all need ways of cooling off during stressful moments.
- Stay healthy and get medical care for yourself when necessary.
- Seek counseling for depression.
- Find a support group for caregivers of the elderly.



Reporting Elder Abuse:

If the victim is in a nursing home or assisted living facility, or is in his or her home and relies on a home health provider, call the Texas Department of State Health Services at (800) 458-9858.

If the victim is a resident of a long-term care facility that receives Medicaid funding, report the criminal abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at (512) 463-2011 (Austin), toll-free at (800) 252-8011 or by e-mail at mfcu@texasattorneygeneral.gov.

Abuse of a senior who is not in a health care facility can be reported to Adult Protective Services at (800) 252-5400 or <https://www.txabusehotline.org>

Texas law states that anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. DFPS keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help.

*The Human Resources code Chapter 48 (48.051) requires a person having cause to believe that an elderly or disabled person is in the state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation to report the information required immediately.

Elder victims have the right to refuse services offered by Adult Protective Services. Services will only be provided if the senior agrees or has been declared incapacitated by the court and a guardian has been appointed.